ELECTRONIC BOOK WITH ENHANCED FEATURES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to electronic books.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Electronic books have been provided in which a person can read electronic book files stored on a storage medium in a compact, hand-held housing. Text is presented on a display of the housing, and more than a single electronic book can be stored on the storage medium. In this way, a person can in effect transport a large number of books for reading at the person's leisure in a single lightweight electronic book form factor. As recognized herein, such electronic books can be made even more convenient and user-friendly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] An electronic book includes a housing, a touch screen display supported on the housing, and one or more stylus holders on the housing for holding an elongated rigid stylus. A digital processor in the housing. A keyboard cord receptacle receives a connector of a cord of a keyboard such that the keyboard may be selectively engaged and disengaged with the housing as desired to enable a person to enter signals to the digital processor. A tangible computer-reader storage medium is in the housing and is accessible to the processor, and electronic book files are stored on the medium for presentation of text represented by the files on the display in a native format under control of the processor. Additionally, the processor selectively presents on the display a list of titles stored on the medium, command input elements to support communication with other electronic books, and an image of a keyboard for providing input to the processor using the display. The processor can access a first electronic book file on the medium in a format other than the native format, and automatically, without requiring user intervention, when the first electronic book file is selected by a user reformat the first electronic book file into the native format and then display the first electronic book file.

[0004] In another aspect, an electronic book includes a housing and an electronic touch screen display supported on the housing. A digital processor in the housing. Also, a tangible computer-reader storage medium is in the housing and is accessible to the processor, with electronic book files being stored on the medium for presentation of text represented by the files on the display in a native format under control of the processor. The processor accesses a first electronic book file on the medium in a format other than the native format and automatically, without requiring user intervention, when the first electronic book file is selected by a user reformats the first electronic book file into the native format and then displays the first electronic book file.

[0005] In another aspect, an electronic book includes a housing and an electronic touch screen display supported on the housing. A digital processor in the housing. Also, a tangible computer-reader storage medium is in the housing and is accessible to the processor. Electronic book files are stored on the medium for presentation of text represented by the files on the display in a native format under control of the processor. At least one wireless transceiver is supported by the housing and is controllable by the processor to transmit electronic book files on the medium to other electronic books. The processor presents on the display a list of transmission protocols to use for selection of a protocol by a person for file transmission.

[0006] The details of the present invention, both as to its structure and operation, can best be understood in reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals refer to like parts, and in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an example electronic book in the closed configuration;

[0008] FIG. **2** is a perspective view showing the electronic book of FIG. **1** in the open configuration;

[0009] FIG. **3** is a perspective view of an example electronic book with the processor, storage medium, and transceivers shown schematically;

[0010] FIG. **4** is a flow chart of example file format conversion logic;

[0011] FIG. **5** is a schematic diagram illustrating book transfer modalities between cooperating electronic books; and

[0012] FIG. **6** is a flow chart of example book transfer logic.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0013] Referring initially to FIGS. **1** and **2**, an example electronic book **10** is shown that can have, in one embodiment, a foldable configuration to mimic opening and closing a paper book. Specifically, the electronic book **10** may have a rigid lightweight plastic "cover" member **12** joined to a rigid lightweight plastic "back" member **14** along a hinge **16** for movement between an open configuration (FIG. **2**), wherein an electronic display **18** of the "cover" member **12** is exposed for viewing, and a closed configuration (FIG. **1**), wherein the display **18** is not exposed because it lies flush against the inside surface of the "back" member **14**. If desired, an input device **20** such as a keyboard and/or mouse or other cursor control/point and click device may be provided on, e.g., the "back" member **14**.

[0014] FIG. **3** shows an example electronic book **22** that may not be foldable in contrast to the book **10** in FIGS. **1** and **2**, it being understood that the book **10** shown in FIGS. **1** and **2** may incorporate the features of the electronic book **22** shown in FIG. **3** in, e.g., the "cover" member **12** of the book **10**. The electronic book **22** includes a lightweight portable plastic housing **24** bearing an electronic display **26** that may be a touch screen display. Accordingly, if desired the housing **24** may include one or more stylus holders **28** such as plastic clips for holding an elongated rigid typically plastic stylus **30**, e.g., vertically on the housing with respect to the "top" and "bottom" of the housing, for use in inputting signals on the display **26** when it is a touch screen display. Without limitation the display **26** may be a liquid crystal display (LCD), light emitting diode display (LED), or other appropriate electronic display technology.

[0015] If desired, the housing **24** may be formed with a keyboard cord receptacle **32** for receiving a connector of a cord **34** of a keyboard **36**. Thus, the keyboard **36** may be selectively engaged and disengaged with the housing **24** as desired to enable a person to enter signals to a digital processor **38** within the housing **24**. In turn, the processor **38** call access a tangible computer-reader storage medium **40** such as